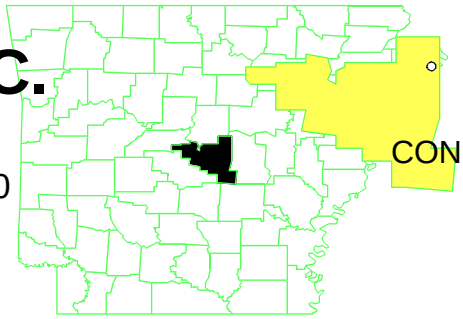
VERTAC, INC.

ARKANSAS

EPA ID# ARD000023440



EPA REGION 6

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 02

Pulaski County

Updated: March 20, 1997

Site Description

Location:
- 15 miles northeast of Little Rock, Pulaski County
- On Marshall Road near western edge of City of Jacksonville, Arkansas

Population:
- About 30,000 residents in the City of Jacksonville.

Setting:
- The nearest residences are immediately adjacent to the plant property to the South and East. The Little Rock Air Force Base is located immediately north of the plant, and a light industrial complex is located to the West.
- **The site is zoned commercial/industrial.**

Hydrology:
- The contaminated aquifer at the site is the fractured Atoka Formation. This aquifer is not used as a public water supply in the area due to its limited yield, and is not used for domestic purposes in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Wastes and Volumes

1. Principal Pollutants:
   - 2,3,7,8-TCDD (dioxin)- as high as 2,800 parts per billion (ppb) in soils; as high as 37 parts per million (ppm) in drummed wastes
   - 2,4-D
   - 2,4,5-T
   - Chlorinated benzene
   - Chlorinated phenols
   - Herbicide production wastes
2. Volume:
   - 28,440 drums of herbicide production waste (still bottoms)
   - Several thousand cubic yards of liquid and solid wastes
   - Landfills and burial areas with several thousand cubic yards of various wastes
   - Several thousand cubic yards of contaminated buildings and equipment
   - Approximately 20,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils and sediments

Site Assessment and Ranking

NPL LISTING HISTORY

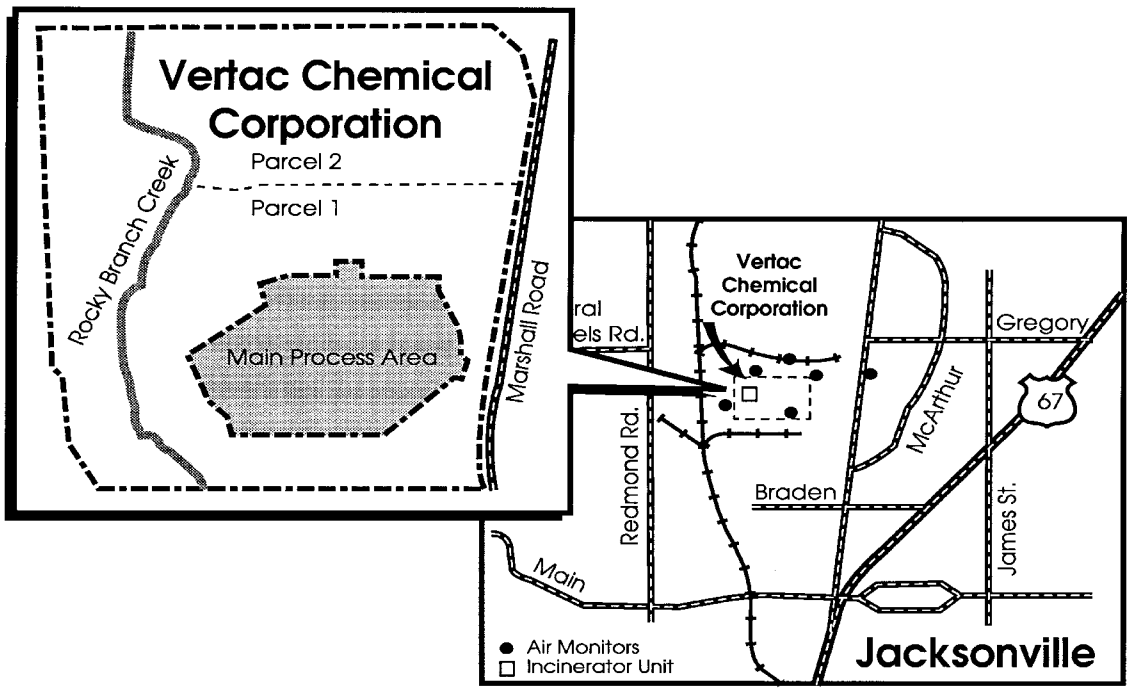
Site HRS Score: 65.46

Proposed Date: 12/30/82

Final Date: 9/08/83

NPL Update: Original NPL

Site Map and Diagram



The Remediation Process

Site History:

- Reasor Hill Company produced 2,4,5-T beginning in 1948 (2,3,7,8-TCDD is a by-product).
- Hercules purchased the plant in 1961, produced Agent Orange, a 2,4,-D and 2,4,5-T mixture.
- Transvaal leased the plant from Hercules during 1971-76, produced 2,4-D; 2,4,5-T and 2,4,5-TP.
- Vertac organized in 1976 and in 1979 suspended production of 2,4,5-T and 2,4,5-TP (silvex).
- Vertac ceased all manufacturing operations May 1986.
- In December 1986, Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) began removal activities with EPA oversight.
- In January 1987, PRP filed bankruptcy and EPA took the lead for removal activities.
- Removal activities included: overpacking and staging leaking drums, construction and repair of storage building to contain drums, pump and treat liquid waste, construction of road for easier site access, fence repair, erosion control.
- Simultaneous removal actions conducted in off-site developed and undeveloped residential areas.
- PRP completed off-site removal in June 1989.
- Incineration of the drummed 2,4,D waste (D-waste) was completed in September 1994. The off-site shipment of 3,100 drums of 2,4,5,T waste (T-waste) to the APTUS facility for incineration was completed on March 29, 1996.
- Off-site disposal of 33,972 drums of incinerator salt residual was completed at the Highway 36 Land Development Co. (Subtitle C facility) in Deer Trail, CO on December 17, 1996.

Health Considerations:

- As a result of inadequate waste disposal methods and production controls, soils and ground water have been contaminated by herbicides, chlorinated phenols, and dioxins. Potential risks include direct contact with and ingestion of contaminated soils.

Other Environmental Risks:

- Fish in the Rocky Branch Creek and Bayou Meto contain dioxin above Food & Drug Administration alert levels for dioxin. A fishing ban is in effect. Recent data indicates dioxin levels in fish tissues are declining.

Records of Decision (RODs)

Signed: September 27, 1990 (Off-site Areas)
Signed: June 30, 1993 On-site OU1 (Above Ground)
Signed: September 17, 1996 OU2 (Soils)
Signed: September 17, 1996 OU3 (Ground water)

Offsite Areas ROD components:

- Dewater and Cap aeration basin and cap sludge drying beds in the sewage treatment plant. (Completed November 1995)
- On-site landfilling of digester sludge, and sewage collection line sediments. (Materials have been consolidated on-site, and will be landfilled in early 1997)
- Excavation of contaminated Rocky Branch/Bayou Meto flood plain soils/sediments. (Expected to be accomplished in Summer 1997)
- Remove dioxin contaminated sediments from the Rocky Branch sewer interceptor, slipline, and landfill the contaminated sediments. (the removed sediments have been stored on-site, and will be placed in the on-site landfill in summer 1997)

On-site OU1 (Above Ground) ROD components:

- Demolish the on-site buildings and equipment and consolidate the debris in an on-site hazardous waste landfill.
- Offsite incineration of shredded trash and pallets, and the wastes in the process vessels.

OU2 (Soils, Foudations, and Underground Utilities) ROD components:

- The excavation of dioxin contaminated soils at or above the action level of 5 parts per billion. - The excavation and off-site incineration of crystalline tetrachlorobenzene (TCB) and TCB contaminated soils at or above the action level of 500 parts per million.
- The disposal (in the on-site landfill) of approximately 2,770 cubic yards of dioxin contaminated soils excavated in 1990 from adjacent residential areas.
- The disposal (in the on-site landfill) of approximately 4,100 cubic yards of dioxin contaminated soils from the Rocky Branch Creek flood plain in conjuction with the Off Site Areas ROD.

OU3 (Ground Water) ROD components:

- Install ground water extraction wells to eliminate the eastward component of ground water flow and retract the eastern extension of the contamination plume.
- Utilize an existing French drain to restrict westward movement of the contamination plume.
- Recomplete an old on-site water supply well to produce some nonaqueous phase liquids from the central process area.
- Impose institutional controls (deed restrictions) to prohibit water supply wells in the area of the site.

Community Involvement

- Community Involvement Plan: Developed 1983
- Open houses and workshops: 07/88, 09/88, 02/93, 4/93, 8/93, 12/93, 8/94, 12/94, 5/95, 3/96, 6/96, 7/96, 9/96, 1/97.
- Original Proposed Plan Fact Sheet and Public Meeting: 06/86 & 07/90 (Off-site), 4/93 (On-site)
- Original ROD Fact Sheet: 01/90 inc. support, 10/90 Off-site, 08/93 On-site
- Milestone Fact Sheets: 11/86, 09/87, 03/88, 04/91, 8/93 (EPA take-over from State), 12/93, 12/94
- Citizens on site mailing list: 266
- Continuous outreach through local satellite office
- Constituency Interest:
  - Highly organized community interest (PACCE, FUSE, ACCA, ECA, AA, NAACP, Greenpeace, JPWP, AARF). Elected officials at all levels are keenly aware of and interested in this site.
  - Removal action, incineration remedy, original Technical Assistance Grant annulment, and multiple operable units have kept community interest at high levels.
  - Response to PACCE
  - Transportation of contaminants to off-site facility
  - Maintain local Satellite office

- Site Repository: Jacksonville City Hall

Technical Assistance Grant

- Original Availability Notice: 4/88, 1/92
- Letters of Intent Received:
  1) Jacksonville People With Pride Cleanup Coalition (JPWPCUC)
  2) Vertac Area Citizens Group
  3) Friends United for a Safe Environment
  4) People Against Chemically Contaminated Environment
- Original Grant Award: 05/18/89 to JPWPCUC
- Status: Grant award to JPWPCC was annulled 12/91 due to apparent conflict of interest.
- TAG Availability re-advertised 1/92
- Letters of Intent received:
  1) Jacksonville Superfund Oversight Committee
  2) People Against a Chemically Contaminated Environment
  3) Jacksonville Superfund Cleanup Coalition
  4) Concerned Citizens Coalition (CCC)
- Final Application Received: 2/24/93
- Grant Award: 4/5/93 to CCC

- Technical Advisor selected 9/94, ECO, Inc., contract signed 12/94, terminated 12/95.
- Second Technical Advisor selected 3/96, document reviews and input to remedy selection resumed.
- Current Status: Significant effort and outreach by EPA resulted in consolidation of competing groups into the CCC Board of Directors. Initial TAG funds have now been disbursed. Grantee requested additional funds, which were awarded 2/97. Review of site technical documents continues.

Contacts

- **Remedial Project Manager (EPA):** Philip Allen, 214/665-8516, Mail Code 6SF-AP
- **State Contact:** Mike Arjmandi (501) 682-0852 and Jerry Neill (501) 682-0846 (ADPC&E)
- **Community Involvement Coord. (EPA):** Donn Walters, 214/665-6483, Mail Sta. 6SF-PO
- **Attorney (EPA):** James Turner, 214/665-3159, Mail Sta. 6SF-DL
- **State Coordinator (EPA):** Robie Hirt, 214/665-8079, Mail Sta. 6SF-AP
- **Prime Contractors:** US Armys Corps of Engineers (EPA); and ERM,Inc.(PRP)

Cost Recovery: PRP Lead (Enforcement)

- PRPs Identified: Approximately 8
- Viable PRPs: 4

Present Status and Issues

- The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Soils Operable Unit (OU2) was completed in April 1995, and the RI/FS was completed for the Ground Water Operable Unit (OU3) in September 1995.
- The RODs for OU2 and OU3 were both signed on September 17, 1996.
- The Unilateral Administrative Orders for OU2 and OU3 were issued to the PRPs on December 10, 1996.
- A Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) was issued to the PRPs on December 31, 1996, for the dismantlement, decontamination, and onsite disposal of the Incinerator Facility (IF) and associated equipment and debris.
- Hercules, Inc. has indicated to EPA a willingness to comply with all UAOs.
- The design and planning necessary for implementation of the OU2 and OU3 remedies, as well as the dismantlement of the IF is being performed in the Winter and Spring 1997.
- Implementation of the remedies for OU2 and OU3, and IF dismantlement, as well as all other construction activiites to conclude overall site remendiation, will begin early in the Summer 1997.

Benefits

- Remediation of Vertac Superfund Site will reduce environmental risks for the citizens of Jacksonville, a city with approximately 30,000 residents.
- About 10,000 cubic yards of highly contaminated waste was treated by incineration. Approximately 25,000 cubic yards of debris resulting from demolition of buildings and equipment is expected to be placed in a RCRA landfill.
- Approximately 20,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil will be disposed in the on-site RCRA landfill.
- The numerous cleanup actions performed to date have reduced the further spread of contaminants and the threat of exposure to dioxin wastes from the tanks and drums on site. The Vertac, Inc., site is safer while remedial design for the final cleanup actions and other current cleanup actions are continuing.